

AMHERSTMEDIA.ORG

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Promoting Innovation and Competition in the Provision of Multichannel Video
Programming Distribution Services (DN 14-261)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing on behalf of Amherst Community Television, dba Amherst Media. Amherst Media has been servicing the residents of Amherst MA for nearly 40 years, providing video training, program distribution and innovated technologies as one of the oldest PEG organization in the country.

We are concerned about the impact the proposed rulemaking (DN 14-261) will have on our organization and our ability to provide Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access services to our community. We strongly support the comments and reply comments of the City of San Antonio and of Anne Arundel County et al. in this proceeding.

We are particularly concerned about the rulemaking's proposal to classify over-the-top (OTT) video services provided by cable franchise holders as something other than a "cable service." Such a designation would allow cable franchise holders to undercut their public interest obligations.

The Town of Amherst is currently negotiating a renewal license with Comcast. Organizations that depend on our video production, training and distribution wrote letters of support, which specifically addressed what services Amherst Media provides to them.

The local Police Department, Rotary and Chamber of Commerce, Public Library and regional schools, UMass at Amherst Department of Communications as well as Amherst Youth Baseball, youth action coalitions and youth theater groups, all sent letters with other individuals and groups. Amherst prides itself on the deep and active participation of its citizens' throughout the local politics. It is Amherst Media who once again provides that coverage from gavel to gavel. There would not be "Live " coverage of the multiple Town Meetings twice a year.

There will not be the necessary funds to provide these services with the proposed rulemaking. It only will further remove the US citizens and residents from having access to what once was considered their "airwaves".

We ask the Commission not to diminish these vital PEG public interest requirements as it considers this proposed rulemaking.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Lescault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Lescault
Executive Director
Amherst Media
246 College Street
Amherst MA. 01002

Cc:

Chairman Tom Wheeler Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly